Provision of helicopters for security forces

*34. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various State Governments have requested that helicopters be provided to security forces in the naxalite and terrorist affected areas; and

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No such proposal has been received from the State Governments. However, the States of Bihar and Chhattisgarh had included procurement of helicopters in their proposals under the scheme for modernization of the State police forces in the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. However, these proposals were not agreed to by the Central Government.

Purchase of AJT

*35. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) present status of purchase of Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT);

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been delay in the price negotiation; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) Government have decided to induct 66 Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJTS) of M/s BAE Systems, UK, for the Indian Air Force. Out of these 66 AJTs, 24 will be procured from M/s BAE Systems of UK in flyaway condition. The remaining 42 AJTs will be licensed manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

(b) and (c) Price negotiation with M/s BAE Systems has since been completed.

Conference of the Inter-State Council at Srinagar

*36. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: